

For immediate release: FIELD DAY SEAMUS DEANE HONORARY ANNUAL LECTURE



www.fieldday.ie

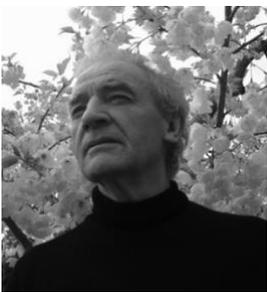
The **2022 Annual Seamus Deane Honorary Field Day Lecture** will be delivered by the distinguished political scientist **Dr Brendan O’Leary** on the theme of **“Key Questions in Irish Reunification”**. The lecture will take place at **The Playhouse**, on Artillery Street in **Derry**, on **Saturday 3 September 2022** at **7pm**. It will also be broadcast live online.

Tickets will be on sale at the door, but please book online at www.derryplayhouse.co.uk to avoid disappointment. Tickets cost £10 (online access) and £12 (standard seated ticket).



Brendan O’Leary is the Lauder Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author, co-author and co-editor of thirty books and hundreds of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He is known in particular for his groundbreaking three-volume study, *A Treatise on Northern Ireland* (2019). He has served as a political advisor to governments and international organisations around the world.

Professor O’Leary’s lecture will coincide with the publication of his highly anticipated new book, *Making Sense of a United Ireland*, copies of which will be available before and after the lecture. This represents a landmark intervention in a singularly crucial and contentious debate by one of the world’s foremost political scientists.



Seamus Deane had a formidable international reputation in the world of literature and literary criticism. President Michael D. Higgins described him as one of Ireland’s “most distinguished critics, poets, novelists and academics”, as well as an “incomparable” son of Derry. His writings, which span literature, politics and culture more broadly, are remarkable for their extraordinary erudition, unflinching rigour and relentless critical insight. Seamus was founder and long-time editor of the *Field Day Review*, having previously edited the Field Day pamphlets between 1983 and 1988. Until his passing in 2021, he was Professor Emeritus at the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and has a prolific backlist of publications, most notably the *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* (Derry, 1991, 2002), which remains a cornerstone of Irish literary criticism. His novel *Reading in the Dark* was shortlisted for the 1996 Booker Prize.

Field Day was founded in 1980 in Derry as a cultural and intellectual response to the political crisis in Northern Ireland. Playwright Brian Friel and actor Stephen Rea set out to identify and cultivate a new audience for theatre. Friel’s widely acclaimed *Translations* was the first of many Field Day plays to show at Derry’s Guildhall before travelling throughout Ireland and the world. These included world premieres of Friel’s *The Communication Cord* (1982) and *Making History* (1988), Derek Mahon’s *High Time* (1984), Tom Paulin’s *The Riot Act* (1984), Terry Eagleton’s *Saint Oscar* (1989) and Seamus Heaney’s *The Cure at Troy* (1990).

From its beginnings as the Field Day Theatre Company, it developed into a publishing company. Founding members Friel and Rea were soon joined by Seamus Heaney, Seamus Deane, Tom Paulin, Tom Kilroy and Davy Hammond. Field Day has since branched into new territory, such as the Field Day podcast and the annual Seamus Deane Honorary Lectures.

For further details, contact Luke Warde at wardel@tcd.ie or 0868905973

<https://www.derryplayhouse.co.uk>

<https://twitter.com/PlayhouseDerry>